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(19) (CA) APPLICATION FOR CANADIAN PATENT (12)

- (54) Impact-Resistant Polyolefin Molding Composition
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- (30) (DE) P 42 OR 191.4 1992/01/18
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HOE 92/F 008

Abstract of the disclosure:

Impact-resistant polyplefin molding composition

A polyclefin molding composition essentially comprising 20 to 99% by weight, based on the molding composition, of an isotactic polyclefia which contains no atactic polymer chains, and 1 to 80% by weight, based on the molding composition, of a rubber having a glass transition temperature below -20°C is distinguished by a high impact resistance and hardness, even at low temperatures.

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Impact-resistant polyolefin molding composition

The invention relates to a polyolefin molding composition of an isotactic elefin bemopolymer and/or elefin copelymer and a rubber, which has a high hardness and a high impact resistance even at low temperatures.

Impact-resistant polyoletin molding compositions are known in principle. They are prepared by mixing, for example, polypropylene and a rubber, such as, for example, ethylene/propylene rubber (EPM) or ethylene/propylene/diene rubber (EPDM), in the melt (Angew. Makrumol. Chem. 105/186 (1991) 97; and Polymer, 28 (1987) 47).

- 15 According to the prior axt, the polypropylene used comprises stactic polypropylene (APP) to the extent of at least 2 10% by weight and polypropylene chains of widely varying chain length $(M_e/M_h = 5 10)$ to the extent of 90 98%.
- 20 Alternatively, a propylene copolymer which also comprises, in addition to APP, polypropylene chains and polymer chains of the comonomer having the build-up described above, propylene copolymer chains of varying copolymer contents and likewise varying chain lengths is also used as the polypropylene component.

Moreover so-called reactor blends are known. Those are composed of APP, polypropylene and polymers of the composed of varying chain length, as well as of propylene component chains of varying chain length and component contents. They are prepared directly in the polymerization reactor in one or more polymerization

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steps.

All these molding compositions have the common feature that they have only an unsatisfactory rigidity/hardness at the desired high impact resistance.

5 There was thus the object of discovering a molding composition which does not have the adverse properties known from the prior ert.

Surprisingly, it has now been found that if polymers and copolymers which are free from stactic polymer chains (stactic polyolefin; called APO) and have a homogeneous molecular weight distribution (M_n/M_n is preferably less than 5) are used, the abovementioned disadvantages can be avoided.

The invention thus relates to a polyolefth molding composition essentially comprising 20 to 99% by weight, based on the molding composition, of an isotactic polyolefin which contains no stactic polymer chains and 1 to 90% by weight, based on the molding composition, of a rubber having a glass transition temperature below ~20°C.

The APO-free isotactic polyclefin to be used for the preparation of the polyclefin molding composition according to the invention is a polymer having a narrow molecular weight distribution N_o/N_o of < 5, preferably < 3.5, and a uniform chain build-up. Uniform chain build-up is understood as meaning a random distribution of building defects and/or commonwers in the polymer chain.

APO-free isotactic polycletine are to be understood as meaning those polycletine which sesentially comprise no stactic polymer chains. These are products (home- and copolymers) which are prepared using highly storeospecific metallocene/aluminoxano catalyst systems. Corresponding processes are known and are described, for

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example, in EP-A 302,424, EP-A 336,127, EP-A 336,128 and DE-P 40 35 886.0. The isotectic polyoletins prepared by the processes mentioned comprise only very small contents, if any, of atactic polymer chains, as a rule, this content is less than 1% by weight.

In principle, it is also possible for polyclefine which have been prepared using conventional fiegler catalysts (NgCl₂/TiCl₂/electron donor/AlEt₂) and comprise noticeable APO contents to be converted into polyclefine which are APO-free and therefore according to the invention by extraction of the APO contents with a hydrocarbon. However, because of the associated involved process, i.e. for reasons of cost, such a procedure is not very appropriate.

15 The isotactic polyolefin to be used according to the invention either is an olefin homopolymer having a molecular weight distribution M/M_n < 5, preferably < 3.5, and an isotacticity index (II) of at least 55%, or an olefin copolymer having an M_n/M_n of < 5, preferably < 3.5, and an isotacticity index of at least 65%, or the polyolefin is composed of an olefin homopolymer and an olefin copolymer in which the isotacticity index is at least 85% and M_n/M_n of the components is < 5, preferably < 3.5.

If the oldfin polymer is an olefin homopolymer, it comprises units of an olefin having at least 3 carbon atoms, of the formula Ra-ChaCH-Rb, in which Ra and Ra are identical or different and are a hydrogen atom or an alkyl radical having 1 to 10, preferably 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or R" and R", with the carbon atoms joining them, form a ring having 4 to 22 carbon atoms. Preferred 30 olefine are propylene, 1-butene, 4-methyl-1-pentone, and norborpens. Propylene pentane particularly proferred, i.e. the molding composition according to the invention comprises, in particular, polypropylene. 35

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If the cleff polymer is an elefin copolymer, it comprises elefin units defined above for the homopolymer and having an isotacticity index of at least 85% to the extent of 93.5 to 50, preferably 93 to 70% by weight, and units of athylene and/or another elefin of the above definition as the component to the extent of at least 0.5 to 50, preferably 1 to 30% by weight. The component is incorporated randomly with a high regularity. Preferred components are ethylene, 1-butene, 4-mathyl-1-pentone, 1-hexene, norbornone or pentene. Particularly preferred elefin components comprise propylene units and athylene component units.

If the polyclefin comprises a mixture of olefin homopolymer and olefin copolymer, the clefin homopolymer has the composition described above. The clefin copolymer comprises an olefin as defined above for the clefin homopolymer to the extent of 20 to 90% by weight, preferably 40 to 90% by weight, and units of ethylene and/or at least one clefin as defined above for an olefin copolymer to the extent of 60 to 10% by weight, preferably 60 to 10% by weight. The commonwer is preferably incorporated randomly. The content of olefin homopolymer in the total polyclefin composition in this case is 20 to 99% by weight, preferably 40 to 95% by weight, and the content of olefin copolymer is 80 to 1% by weight, preferably 60 to 5% by weight.

If it comprises two different polymer components, the polyplefin according to the invention is particularly preferably composed of 40 to 95% by weight of polypropylene (based on the total amount of polyplefin) having an isotacticity index of at least 85%, and 60 to 5% by weight (based on the total amount of polyplefin) of clofin copolymer comprising 40 to 90% by weight of propylene units and 60 to 10% by weight of ethylene units (in each case based on the total amount of clofin copolymer).

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The molding composition according to the invention comprises the isotactic elefin polymer in an amount of 20 to 99% by weight, preferably 40 to 95% by weight.

1 to 80, preferably 5 to 60% by weight of the molding composition according to the invention is a rubber having a glass transition temperature below -20°C. Suitable rubbers are, for example, styrene/butadions rubbers, silicone rubbers, ethylens/propylens rubbers (RPM) or ethylens/propylens/diens rubbers (EPAM). XPM and EFAM rubbers can additionally also comprise up to 40% of polyethylene. 1,4-Nexadiene, norbornadiene or cyclopentadiene can be present in an amount of up to 10% by weight, based on the total amount of rubber, as the diene r frestogmon

15 The content of othylene and propylene is not limited, as long as a glass transition temperature of the amorphous components of less than -20°C is achieved.

A typical composition for commercially available BPM nubbers is, for example, 10-60% by weight of propylene units and 90-40% by weight of ethylene units. Of the ethylene units, 0-40% by weight are a pure polyethylene content, and the remainder forms a copolymer content, together with the propylene.

EPPK rubbers are of corresponding composition, but 1-10% by weight of a diene of the abovementioned type is also additionally incorporated in the copolymer content, in addition to propylene and ethylene. The melt viscosity of typical EPK and EPDM rubbers is between 0.5 and 300 g/10 minutes (MFI 230/5).

The Mooney viscosity (measured at 121°C, ML) is typically 30 between 20 and 80. The tensile stress at 60% elongation ts typically 10-300 psi (pounds/square inch, 1 psi = $6894.8 \text{ kg/m.second}^2 = 1 \text{ Pa}).$

Rubbers which can typically be used are on the warket, for example, under the currently existing commercial names Vistalon, Exxelor (Exxon Chemicals), Dutral (Dutral S.A.), Nordel (DuPont) or Buna (Veba).

- In addition to the isotactic plafin polymer and the rubber, the molding composition according to the invention can also contain the customary additaves, for example stabilizers, antioxidanta, UV absorbers, light protection agents, metal deactivators, free redical scavengers,
- fillers and reinforcing agents, compatibilizing agents, plasticizers, lubricants, emulsifiers, piquents, optical brighteness, flameproofing agests, antistatics blowing agents.
- The molding composition according to the invention can be prepared by the mathods customary in plastics processing for mixing polymers and additives.

One possibility is sintering in a high-speed mixer, if all the constituents of the molding composition are pulverulent.

Another possibility is the use of an extruder having mixing and kneeding organs on the screw.

Pinally, kneaders such as are employed in the rubber and synthetic rubber industry are also suitable mixing machines.

The mixing temperature depends on the particular composi-25 tion of the molding composition and can be determined by simple routine experiments.

The molding composition according to the invention is distinguished by a high hardness, in combination with high impact resistance, in particular even at temper-30 atures below 0°C. In general, this molding composition

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can be used in the form of extruded, injection molded, formed or blown moldings in all instances where high rigidity, hardness, dimensional stability and scratch resistance in combination with high impact resistance, tear strength and flexural atrength are desired.

It can be used in automobile construction, for example, for side lining strips, spoilers, seals, fender linings, humper materials, truck and tractor fenders, scratchnesistant automobile interior fittings or hub caps.

10 The molding composition according to the invention furthermore is also suitable, for example, for the production of tear-resistant films, membrane filters, fibers and filaments.

The following examples are intended to illustrate the invention in more detail.

if = isotacticity index (by 180-NAN apactroscopy)

n_{im} - average isotactic chain length (by ¹²C-MMR)

n_{rs} = average polysthylene block length

VN = viscosity number, measured at 135°C as a
20 0.1% strength solution in
decahydronaphthalene in a capillary
viscomater

MPI 230/5 = melt index at 230°C, 5 kg load, in accordance with DIN 53 735

25 N_{ω}/M_{n} - polydispersity (measure of the chain length distribution)

patermination of the melting points by DSC (20°C/minute)

BIH - ball indentation hardness (in accordance with DIM 53 456, pressed sheets 4 mm thick)

30 $a_{\rm KV}$ = notched impact strength according to DIN 53 453, we assured on standard small bars (50 × 6 × 6 mm), taken from pressed sheets, with a V notch (flank angle 45°, notch depth 1.3 mm, notch radius 1 mm).

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A SSK 28 twin-screw extruder (Werner & Pfloiderer) was used for the preparation of the molding compositions.

Ехатрле 1.

A molding composition comprising 90% by weight of isotautic polypropylene, based on the total molding composition, and 10% by weight of a rubber having the following composition was prepared by extrasion:

35.8% by weight of propylane units and 64.2% by weight of othylane units; 40.4% by weight of the rubber composition was polyethylene and 59.6% by weight was an ethylene/ propylene copolymer (EPM) comprising 60.0% by weight of propylene units and \$0.0% by weight of othylene units. The MPI 230/5 of the rubber was 2 g/10 minutes, the viscosity number (VN) was 236 cm³/g, the DSC melting point was 131°C and the DSC glass transition temperature was The isotactic polypropylene used had an isotacticity index (II) of 95.0%, an $n_{\rm sep}$ of 49, an MFI 230/5 of 32 g/10 minutes and a melting point of 148°C; further data were: $M_{\pi} = 1.90,000$ g/mol; $M_{\pi}/M_{\pi} = 2.2$, VN ~ 174 cm3/g, no APO centents extractable with other or heptane.

9 kg of the isotratic polypropylene powder were mixed with 1 kg of the rubber, and the mixture was stabilized against chemical degradation under extrusion conditions with 10 g of pontacrythrityl totrakis[3-(3,5-dl-t-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)propionate]. The temperatures established in the five heating zones of the extruder were 120°C (intake), 150°C, 190°C, 195°C and 180°C (die plate). The extinder screw was operated at 100 revolutions per minute; the melt temperature of the mixture in the extruder was 210°C.

The following data were measured on the molding composition thus produced:

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MFI (230/5) - 31 g/10 minutes; $VN = 168 \text{ cm}^3/\text{g}$; BIH = 70 Nam 2; Ap = 10.1 mJmm 2 (23°C); 5.4 m_c frame $^{'8}$ (0°C) and 4.3 mJmc $^{-2}$ (-20°C). Melting point (OSC) = 128 and 148°C, glass transition 5 temperature Tg = -56°C.

Comparison Example A

Instead of the APO-free (here AFP-free; AFF * atactic polypropyleme) isotactic polypropyleme of marrow distribution according to the invention, a polypropylene having 10 the following data was employed under the same conditions as in Example 1: MPI $(230/5) = 27 \text{ g/10 minutes; VN } = 220 \text{ cm}^3/\text{g};$ $M_{\rm w}=312,000$ g/mol, $M_{\rm w}/M_{\odot}=8.5$; APP content by heptane extraction: 2.3% by weight.

The molding composition thus obtained had the following 15 datat KFI (239/5) = 24 g/10 minutes; VA = 245 cm⁸/9; BIH ... Kom "; a_{Kv} = ... mJmm". Melting point (DSC) = 126/164°C, glass transition temporature Tg = -56°C. 20

Examples 2 - 4; Comparison Examples B - D

The procedure was as in Example 1 (Examples 2 - 4) or as in Comparison Example A (Comparison Examples B - D), but instead of 10% of rubber 15% (Example 2; Comparison Reample B), 25% (Example 3, Comparison Example C) and 40% (Example 4, Comparison Example D) of rubber was amployed.

The results are nummarized in Table 1.

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Skample	Example MPI (330/5)	VM	BIR	ដើ	_{ടം} [സ്തങ ²]		Melting point	Tg for,
	[3/10 mJr] [cm./g]	[5/_E0]		23,0	ပ္ ဓ	-20°C	(2 *267)	ואסר)
[[a	27	175	85	13,8	r.9	9.9	128/146	-57
9	35	457					*07.67r	
M	23	178	54	31.9	19.7	13.5	179/148	80
ዩ	13	239					129/162	-5-
•	67	179	44	39.1	31.0	16.4	130/147	-57
Ğ	16	339					129/160	장 (1)

(V = Comparison Example)

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Examples 5 - 8

Examples 1 - 4 were repeated, but a product having the following data was used as the polypropylene according to the invention:

5 II = 96.1%; n_{sm} = 53; MMI 230/5) = 6 g/10 minutes; melting point = 151°C, M_s * 369,500, M_s/K_s = 2.0; VW = 293 cm3/g; no AFP contents extractable with other or haptana.

This polypropylene was processed by extrusion with 10% by 10 weight (Example 5), 15% by weight (Example 6), 25% by weight (Example 7) and 40% by weight (Example 6) of the rubber to give molding compositions having the data summarized in Table 2.

Comparison Examples E - K

15 The procedure was as in Examples 5 to 8, but a polypropylene which is not according to the invention and has the following data was used: MFI (230/5) = 9 g/10 minutes; $VN = 302 \text{ cm}^3/\text{g}$; $M_{\star} = 288,000$ g/mol; $M_{\star}/M_{\odot} = 5.7$; APP by heptone extraction: 2.7% by weight. 20

The molding compositions thus obtained, VE (10%), VF (15%), VG (25%) and VM having a 40% rubber content, had the data summarized in Table 2.

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Exemple		N.	BIH		a _{Kv} [mJbm ^{-2,}]		M	Pg
	1g/10 min]	[cm²/g]	[*************************************	23°C	ລູດ	-20 ₋ c	(psc, 'c)	(ກຸ່ວຣຸດ)
50	*	263	67	18.2		ια ·	130/352	-55
¥	æ	260	ಜ್ಞ	13.5	7.0	3.2	129/164	-56
49	n,	258	63	26.2	10.7	3.0	125/151	-57
ΔĀ	ው	257	55 59	24.2		3.7	128/152	-55
7	~?*	254	53	38.5	24.9	15.2	129/151	-55
VG	en.	761	48	38.5	23.5	12,7	129/162	-56
•	핻	252	£3	₫1.9		30.5	130/152	-57
Val	i~	255	35	41.4	36,3	30.3	128/160	ត្ត

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Example: 9

Example 3 was repeated, but a product having the following data was used as the polypropylens according to the inventions

II = 96.4%, n_{ien} = 60; MPI (230/5) = 100 g/10 minutes; Molting point ~ 148°C, K = 154,500 g/mpl, Mp/Mn = 2.2; VM = 146 cm//g; no APP contents extractable with other or heptane.

The following data were measured on the molding composition prepared by extrusion with the subbers NFI (230/5) = 79 dg/minutes; VM = 170 cm³/g; BIH = 72 Mmm^{-2} ; $a_{kv} = 28.6$ (33°C), 17.5 (9°C) and 8.7 mJum⁻² (-20°C).

Example 10

- 15 Example 3 was repeated, but an ethylens/propylene copolymer having the following composition and properties was used as the polyoletin according to the invention: Ethylene content 6.3%, incorporation of athylene with an average ethylene block length of $n_{rr} \leq 1.2$, i.e. the predominant ethylene content is incorporated in isolated units. The II of the propylene sequences was 96.0%. MrI (230/5) = 7.0 g/10 minutes; VN 289 cm3/5; $M_0 = 402,000 \text{ g/mol}, M_0/N_0 \approx 2.0.$ No APP contents extractable with other or haptame.
- The following data were measured on the molding composition prepared by extrusion with the nubbens MFT $(230/5) \sim 3.5 \text{ g/10 min, VN} = 272 \text{ cm}^3/\text{g}$; BIH = 50 Kmm^{-2} ; $a_{\text{Ke}} = 45.7 (23^{\circ}\text{C}), 27.9 (0^{\circ}\text{C})$ and 18.4 mJmm (-20°C).

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Example 11

Example 3 was repeated, but an ethylene/propylene block copolymen which was prepared in two stagos and had the following composition and properties was used as the polyolofin according to the invention: 12.5% ethylene content; fractionation of the copolymer showed a composition of 76% of polypropylene having on II of 96.8% and 24% of an ethylane/propylana copolymer with an ethylene content of 52%, the ethylene being incorporated both as isolated units and in block form. MFI (230/5) = 4.9 g/10 minutes; VN \prec 326 cm³/g; и, ~ 407,000 g/mol, K./H. ~ 3.1. No APP contents extractable with ether or heptane.

The following data were measured on the molding composition prepared by extrusion with the rubber: NFJ (230/5) = 3.4 g/t0 minutes; $VN = 298 \text{ cm}^3/\text{g}$; BIH = 39 Hmm⁻²; u_{kv}: no fractures of the test specimen down to -40°C.

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THE EXBODIZERTS OF THE INVENTION IS WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE

- 1. A polyolefin molding composition essentially comprising 20 to 99% by weight, based on the molding composition, of an isotactic polyolelin which contains no atactic polymer chains and 1 to 80% by weight, based on the molding composition, of a rubber having a glass transition temperature below -20°C.
- A molding composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein
 the ientactic polycleff; is an olofin homopolymer having
 an isotacticity index of at least 85%.
- 3. A molding composition as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the isotactic polyolesses is an olesses homopolyment and comprises units of an olesses having at least 3 carbon atoms, of the formula R°-CH-CH-R°, in which R° and R¹ are identical or different and are a hydrogen atom or C₁-C₁₀-alkyl, or R° and R³, with the atoms joining them, form a ring having 4 to 22 carbon atoms.
- A molding composition as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 3, wherein the isotactic polyplesin is
 polypropylene.
- A molding composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the isotactic polyplefin is an olefin copolymer which comprises units of an olefin having at least 3 carbon atoms, of the formula Rⁿ-CH=CH-R^b, in which Rⁿ and R^b are identical or different and are a hydrogen atom or C₁-C₂₀-alkyl, or R^a and R^b, with the atoms joining them, form a ring having 4 to 22 carbon atoms, and having an isotacticity index of at least 85% to the extent of 99.5 to 50% by weight, and units of athylene and/or an olefin of the formula R'-CH=CH-R^b to the extent of 0.5 to 50% by weight.

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- 6. A molding composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein the olefin copolymer is an ethylene/propylene copolymer.
- 7. A molding composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the isotactic polyelefin is a mixture of
- 5 a) 20 to 99% by weight of an olefin homopolymor which comprises units of an olefin having at least 3 carbon atoms, of the formula R*-CH=CH-R*, in which R* and R* are identical or different and are a hydrogen atom or C,-Co-alkyl, or R* and R*, with the atoms joining them, form a ring having 4 to 22 carbon atoms, and having an isotacticity index of at least \$55\$ and
- b) 80 to 1t by weight of an olefin copolymer which comprises units of an olefin having at least 3 carbon atoms, of the formula R°-CH-CH-R°, in which R° and R° are identical or different and are a hydrogen atom or C₁-C₁₀-alkyl, or R° and R°, with the atoms joining them, form a ring having 4 to 22 carbon atoms, and having an isotacticity index of at least 85% to the extent of 20 to 90% by weight, and units of ethylene and/or another olefin of the formula R°-CK-CK-R° to the extent of 80 to 10% by weight.
- A molding composition as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 7, which additionally comprises stabilizers, antioxidants, UV absorbers, light protection agents, metal deactivators, free radical trapping agents, fillers and reinforcing agents, compatibilizing agents, plasticisers, lubricants, emulaifiers, pigments, optical brightenors, flameproofing agents, antistatics or blowing agents.
 - 9. The use of a molding composition as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 8 for the production of moldings.

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10. A molding which can be produced from a molding composition as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 8.

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Abstract of the disclosure:

Impact-resistant polyplefin molding composition

A polyolefin molding composition essentially comprising 20 to 39% by weight, based on the molding composition, of an isotactic polyolefia which contains no atactic polymer chains, and 1 to 80% by weight, based on the molding composition, of a rubber having a glass transition temperature below -20°C is distinguished by a high impact resistance and hardness, even at low temperatures.

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THE EXBODIZERTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE

- 1. A polyolefin molding composition essentially comprising 20 to 99% by weight, based on the molding composition, of an isotactic polyolefin which contains no atactic polymer chains and 1 to 80% by weight, based on the molding composition, of a rubber having a glass transition temperature below -20°C.
- A molding composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the isotactic polyoleffs is an elefin homopolymer having an isotacticity index of at least 95%.
- A molding composition as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the isotactic polyoless is an oless homopolymer and comprises units of an oless having at least 3 carbon atoms, of the formula R°-CH-CH-R°, in which R° and R° are identical or different and are a hydrogen atom or C₁-C₁₀-alkyl, or R° and R°, with the atoms joining them, form a ring having 6 to 22 carbon atoms.
- A molding composition as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 3, wherein the isotactic polyplefin is 20 polypropylene.
 - 5. A molding composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the isotautic polyplefin is an olefin copolymer which comprises units of an elefin having at least 3 carbon atoms, of the formula R*-CH=CH-R*, in which R* and R* are identical or different and are a hydrogen atom or C₁-C₂₀-alkyl, or R* and R*, with the atoms joining them, form a ring having 4 to 22 carbon atoms, and having an isotauticity index of at least 85% to the extent of 99.5 to 50% by weight, and units of athylene and/or an elefin of the formula R*-CH=CH-R* to the extent of 0.5 to 50% by weight.

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